

The **European Union's** High Representative, Josep Borrell reiterated that, "any annexation would constitute a serious violation of international law," and said the EU, "will continue to closely monitor the situation and its broader implications, and will act accordingly." Some EU member states blocked efforts to issue the statement on behalf of all 27 member states due to 8 countries reluctant to support the message.

At the **UN Security Council** debate on the "Situation in the Middle East" held April 23rd, a number of statements were made by concerned parties including:

- **UN Middle East Envoy, Nikolay Mladenov** said that annexation would, "constitute a serious violation of international law, deal a devastating blow to the two-state solution, close the door to a renewal of negotiations, and threaten efforts to advance regional peace."
- **France**, issued the most forceful statement and said that "such steps if implemented would not pass unchallenged and shall not be overlooked in our relationship with Israel," implying that there would be diplomatic consequences.
- **Germany**, said it "strongly advise[s] any Israeli government against annexation...this would constitute a clear violation of international law and not only have serious, negative repercussions for the viability of the two-state solution and the entire peace process but potentially also for regional stability and Israel's standing within the international community."
- The **United Kingdom** said: "The UK position is clear: any unilateral moves towards annexation of parts of the West Bank by Israel would be damaging to efforts to restart peace negotiations and would be contrary to international law.
- **China** urged relevant parties "to refrain from taking any such unilateral steps."

**Luxembourg's** Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn said, "annexation by Israel of occupied Palestinian territory in the West Bank would constitute a serious violation of international law and would deal a fatal blow to the two-State solution. Such a step could not be accepted by the European Union."

**Russia** has on numerous occasions expressed its opposition to such a move and sent a letter to Palestinian FM Riyad Malki, Russian Foreign stating that annexation would constitute a violation of the principles of international laws and legitimacy.

**Ireland's** Foreign Minister Simon Coveney said: "Annexation of territory by force is prohibited under international law, including the UN Charter, whenever and wherever it occurs, in Europe's neighbourhood or globally. This is a fundamental principle in the relations of states and the rule of law in the modern world. No one state can set it aside at will."

**Jordanian** Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi has approached various foreign ministers including those from Russia, Germany, Egypt, Japan, Sweden and Norway urging them to assert pressure on Israel. This comes ahead of the upcoming meeting of Arab League foreign ministers in Cairo who will The foreign ministers of the Arab League will meet in Cairo in the next few days to discuss the new Israeli government formation and the dangers of the annexation plan.

Other countries, including **Belgium, Spain, Italy, Sweden, Estonia** and **Norway**, made similar statements expressing opposition to steps towards such a move.